



State of South Carolina

Office of the Governor

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December 6, 2004

The Honorable David H. Wilkins
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Post Office Box 11867
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

Mr. Speaker and Members of the House:

I am hereby returning without my approval H. 4821, R-430, a bill containing various sections relating to licensure requirements for optometrists, licensure requirements for hair braiders, and registration requirements for cardiovascular invasive specialists. Identical versions of Section 2, which sets licensure requirements for hair braiders, and Section 4, which provides registration requirements for cardiovascular invasive specialists, were also passed by the General Assembly in H. 4455, R-147, which I have also vetoed today. I am re-stating the reasons for my objection to the similar sections in H. 4455 below.

I am vetoing this bill because I believe it is unduly burdensome and imposes unnecessary restrictions on hair braiders. Section 2 of this bill requires persons who braid hair to receive sixty hours of cosmetology education as a prerequisite to receiving state certification. Even though the intent of this section is to lessen the extreme, newly-applied requirement of 1,500 hours of education on hair braiders, I do not believe a person who braids hair should be burdened with *any* government-sanctioned educational requirements when there is no great public safety concern.

I believe this bill unfairly requires mandatory educational training for hair braiders when professions with a greater potential impact on public safety such as water treatment operators, chemical operators, residential builders, and general contractors are free from similar requirements. By comparison, a concealed weapons permit only requires eight hours of education and the educational requirement for selling real estate, which often involves complex financial transactions, is sixty hours of education – the same amount that this legislation would require for the braiding of hair.

My veto of H. 4821 stems from my fundamental belief in the need to limit the scope of government. I firmly agree with President Ronald Reagan who said in his first inaugural address that "government can and must provide opportunity, not smother it; foster productivity, not stifle it." I believe that mandating education courses as a prerequisite for individuals to perform hair braiding would serve to unnecessarily smother opportunity for many South Carolinians. Therefore, I would urge the General Assembly to remove all licensure and educational requirements for hair braiders early in the next legislative session so that they may be free to work without restrictions as soon as possible.

Finally, I am also concerned with the additional regulations placed on cardiovascular invasive specialists required by Section 4 of this bill. This section establishes a new regulatory program which requires state certification for cardiovascular invasive specialists, which is in addition to their current national certification requirements. I understand the need for proper credentialing of this medical specialty. However, South Carolina is the first state to pass such legislation and, according to Cardiovascular Credentialing International, the credentialing organization for this specialty, this bill imposes more restrictions to practice as a cardiovascular invasive specialist than the current national certification guidelines and would de-certify a significant number of cardiovascular invasive specialists who now have certification. I believe these regulations must be properly balanced by evaluating the sufficiency of the current national standards and the additional burdens placed on this profession against the public safety interests of our citizens.

For the reasons stated above, I am vetoing H. 4821, R-430.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MS', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Mark Sanford